

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Brief Listing of the Status of the Claims

Claims 1-24 are Cancelled

Claims 25-35 are Not Entered

Claims 36-44 are New

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)

- 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Not Entered)
- 26. (Not Entered)
- 27. (Not Entered)
- 28. (Not Entered)
- 29. (Not Entered)
- 30. (Not Entered)
- 31. (Not Entered)
- 32. (Not Entered)
- 33. (Not Entered)
- 34. (Not Entered)
- 35. (Not Entered)

36. (New) A wood cooking mixture comprising hardwood particles and a wood cooking aid, wherein the wood cooking aid comprises a fatty acid component and a rosin acid component and/or salts thereof, and wherein said wood cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids, and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material; said fatty acids comprise a monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids; and said monomer part contains branched oleic acids 13 to 20%, branched stearic acids 7 to 20%, oleic acid 15 to 25% and other fatty acids 28 to 58%, the rest being unsaponifiable material.

37. (New) A wood cooking mixture comprising hardwood particles and a wood cooking aid, wherein the wood cooking aid comprises a fatty acid component and a rosin acid component and/or salts thereof, and wherein said wood cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids, and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material; said fatty acids comprise a monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids; and the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about 14 to about 16%, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15%, oleic acid about 19 to about 21% and other fatty acids about 42 to about 44%.

38. (New) The wood cooking mixture of claim 37 wherein said hardwood particles are birch particles.

39. (New) A method for processing hardwood particles comprising: contacting hardwood particles with a wood cooking aid, said wood cooking aid comprising a fatty acid component and a rosin acid component and/or salts thereof, and wherein said wood cooking aid comprises about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids, and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material; said fatty acids comprise a monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids; and the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about 14 to about 16%, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15%, oleic acid about 19 to about 21% and other fatty acids about 42 to about 44%.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein said hardwood particles are birch particles.

41. (New) A method for cooking hardwood comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting hardwood particles with a cooking liquor comprising a cooking aid, and
- ii) heating said particles and liquor to a temperature between 140°C and 180°C, wherein said cooking aid comprises a blended mixture of about 70 to about 2% fatty acids, about 20 to about 98% rosin acids and less than about 15% unsaponifiable material, and wherein said fatty acids comprise a monomer part produced during dimerization of fatty acids.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein said hardwood particles are birch particles.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the fatty acid distribution of said monomer part is branched oleic acids about 14 to about 16%, branched stearic acid about 13 to about 15%, oleic acid about 19 to about 21% and other fatty acids about 42 to about 44%.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein said hardwood particles are birch particles.